Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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R 100800Z SEP 76 FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5765 INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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DEPT PASS USDA FOR TITLE I COORDINATOR NORTON:

NEW DELHI FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJECT: FY 1977 PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM

REF COLOMBO 3259

- 1. FOOD COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE HAS COMPLETED TESTING OF US RICE SAMPLES AND REPORTS QUALITY OF NUMBER FOUR (IDENTIFICATION 3/15) ACCEPTABLE WHILE NUMBER FIVE (IDENTIFICATION 5/20) WAS TOO GLUTINOUS.
- 2. IN CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 10, FOOD COMMISSIONER (FC) TOLD AID DIRECTOR AND EMBOFF THAT GSL CONSIDERING INCLUSION OF RICE IN REQUEST FOR FY 1977, PL480, TITLE I, PROGRAM. FC'S PRELIMINARY THINKING IS TO ASK FOR INITIAL ALLOTMENT OF 5,000 TO 10,000 METRIC TONS OF US NUMBER FOUR LONG GRAIN MILLED RICE FOR TRIAL RUN IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM. IF QUALITY OF RICE FOUND ACCEPTABLE BY CONSUMERS, GSL WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT TO BRING TOTAL TO 20,000 MT. FC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID THAT RICE QUALITY PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE QUESTION

IN ELECTION YEAR AND POINTED OUT THAT IT IN NEITHER GSL'S NOR USG'S INTEREST TO PUSH RICE NOT TO SRI LANKAN TASTES.IF, HOWEVER, LOCAL CONSUMERS ACCEPT US RICE, FC HAPPY TO TAKE 20,000 MT IN FY 77.

3. WHEN ASKED HOW MUCH WHEAT FLOUR GSL WAS PLANNING TO REQUEST,FC WAS EVASIVE BUT INDICATED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE THAN THE 100,000 MT PROVIDED IN FY 76 PROGRAM. HE SAID WHEAT FLOUR CONSUMPTION NOW RUNNING ABOUT 45,000 MT PER MONTH, OR APPROXIMATELY 550,000 MT PER YEAR, FC JOKINGLY ASKED IF TOTAL AMOUNT COULD BE SUPPLIED UNDER PL 480. ALTHOUGH FC DETERMINES TOTAL AMOUNT OF FOBD GRAINS REQUIRED, IT IS EXTERNAL RESOURCES DIVISION THAT ALLOCATES BETWEEN COMMERCIAL AND CONCESSIONAL IMPORTS. FC MEETING WITH EXTERNAL RESOURCES AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 10 TO MAKE DECISION ON ABOUNT OF PL 480 REQUEST. HE PROMISED TO TELEPHONE EMBASSY EARLY NEXT WEEK TO ARRANGE MEETING FOR MORE CONCRETE DIS-CUSSION OF SRI LANKA'S PL 480 NEEDS ACTION: REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE SPOT AND FUTURE PRICES FOR US NUMBER FOUR LONG GRAIN MILLED RICE FOR EXPECTED DISCUSSIONS WITH FC AND EXTERNAL RRSOURCES NEXT WEEK. ALSO, IF DEPARTMENT OR USDA HAVE CALCU-LATED DISCOUNTED PRESENT VALUE OF US RICE UNDER PL 480 TERMS AND INTEREST.EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THESE FIGURES (WITH PRICE AND INTEREST ASSUMPTIONS) TO GIVE TO GSL. FC SAID HIS STAFF WOULD UNDERTAKE SUCH CALCULATIONS (WHICH THEY APPARENTLY HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE) BUT SO FAR HAVE NOT DONE SO. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON HOW FC'S IDEA OF RICE TRANCHES COULD BE HANDLED IN AGREEMENT. WOULD AGREEMENT HAVE TO BE WRITTEN FOR SAY 10,000 MT AND THEN BE AMENDED FOR ADDITIONAL 10,000 MT, OR COULD TRANCHES BE BUILD INTO ORIGINAL AGREEMENT? REED

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Message Attributes

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